LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 18. (Canceled)

- 19. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a BCMA (B Cell Maturation Antigen) polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises:
 - (a) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (B-cell activating factor of the TNF family; SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1; or
 - (b) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 20. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises:
 - (a) amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1; or
 - (b) amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 21 - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

(Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20
 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 30 - 31. (Canceled)

- 32. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a BCMA polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises:
 - (a) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1; or

(b) an amino acid sequence that binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:9 and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1,

and wherein the BCMA polypeptide does not comprise amino acids 53 to 81 of SEQ ID NO:1.

33. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

34. (Canceled)

- 35. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 36. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

- 39. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a polypeptide effective to inhibit B cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the polypeptide comprises a BCMA polypeptide consisting essentially of:
 - (a) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1; or
 - (b) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 40. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 39 wherein the BCMA polypeptide consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

41. (Canceled)

- 42. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the BCMA polypeptide consists essentially of amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 39
 wherein the BCMA polypeptide consists essentially of an amino acid sequence that

binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

44. (Canceled)

- 45. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 43 wherein the BCMA polypeptide consists essentially of amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 46. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a soluble BCMA polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the soluble BCMA polypeptide comprises:
 - (a) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1; or
 - (b) an amino sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 47. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46 wherein the soluble BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1

- 48. (Canceled)
- 49. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47 wherein the soluble BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 50. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46 wherein the soluble BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (Canceled)

- 52. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 50 wherein the soluble BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 53. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 19, 20, 25-27, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 46, 47, 49, 50, and 52, wherein the BCMA polypeptide further comprises a heterologous amino acid sequence.
- 54. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 53, wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence comprises an Fc domain of an immunoglobulin.

- 55. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 39, 40, 42, 43, and 45, wherein the BCMA polypeptide is fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.
- 56. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 55, wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence comprises an Fc domain of an immunoglobulin.
- 57. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a BCMA polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 52 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 58. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a BCMA polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 52 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the BCMA polypeptide does not comprise amino acids 53 to 81 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 59. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a polypeptide effective to inhibit B

cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the polypeptide comprises a BCMA polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 52 of SEQ ID NO:1.

- 60. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a soluble BCMA polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the soluble BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 52 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 61. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 57-60, wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 52 of SEQ ID NO:1.